

Eternally hopeful for their children's futures, taxpayers have shown remarkable patience with the government's education monopoly. So have Republicans. Since capturing the majority in Congress, the GOP has substantially outspent Democrats pumping billions into government-owned schools. In 1983, the average expenditure per student was \$3,300, while the average today tops \$8,000. Still, American students trail their international peers considerably.

According to the 1999 Third International Mathematics and Science Study Repeat (TIMMS-R), American students have not improved in the areas of math and science since the first TIMMS test in 1995. The comparison included students in 38 industrialized countries. According to the Center for Education Reform, American 8th graders are outranked by 18 other nations in math and by 17 others in science.

President George W. Bush has boldly called on Congress to "leave no child behind." He outlined his desire to empower parents, emphasize local control of schools, send dollars to the classroom and improve basic academics. Incredibly, Congress has so far drafted a 900-page-thick bill, translating Bush's sensible objectives into sizable new programs, fresh mandates, scant choice, and an outrageous 11.5 percent increase in federal education spending over last year.

Before another year of dust begins to settle on "A Nation at Risk," President Bush and the Congress should reassess Washington's education spending and regulatory frenzy. Republicans should stake their majority on free-market solutions to school reform, dramatically shrink the bureaucracy, and give real decision-making power—money—to parents of school-aged children.

America's schoolchildren deserve to be treated like real Americans; like they matter. So long as Republicans look to the federal education empire to rebuild the nation's academic prominence they do nothing to distinguish themselves nor maintain the public trust. They will only become part of the problem further betraying America's children to languish in a nation at risk.

HONORING WORLD WAR II
VETERAN C.U. "PEG" O'NEILL

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute and give thanks to a Colorado resident who risked his life for our country in World War II. C.U. "Peg" O'Neill joined the U.S. Army in 1943. He became a C-47 pilot, and was stationed in England.

Peg flew 11 missions into war-torn Europe. "We could see the German antiaircraft fire coming straight at us," said Peg in an article from the Montrose Daily Press. "We lost four planes out of our squadron of 18 planes that night." Peg's first mission began in England on June 5, 1944, were 1,000 C-47 cargo transports flew to the coast of France. The

paratroopers mission on D-Day, was to disrupt German communications, secure bridges, and incite confusion, chaos and panic. This was a far cry from his days working at the Hartman Brothers Auto Dealership in Montrose.

Peg participated in the battle for Nijmegen Bridge. During the famous mission for the "bridge to far", Peg survived a mid-air collision with another allied plane trying to catch cover from anti-aircraft fire. "The Germans had opened the sea gates and had flooded the fields," said Peg of his first mission. "I had 14 men from the 101st Airborne to drop. The lightest man weighed 258 pounds in full field gear. Some of them never got out of the swamps. They were drowned."

Peg returned to the dealership after the war with several medals, and most of all, his life and his health. Peg earned the Air Service Medal with seven bronze stars and the prestigious Presidential Citation, which was awarded to his squadron for its valor on the eve of D-Day.

Mr. Speaker, men like Peg O'Neill deserve our thanks and praises for the life threatening situations they were in during World War II. Peg's story is only one of many stories from our World War II soldiers. We owe them our thanks now and in the future.

TRIBUTE TO KENT KRUKIEWITT

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, recently, Mr. Kent Krukewitt was named a Master Farmer by Prairie Farmer magazine. I rise today to congratulate Mr. Krukewitt on this prestigious nomination. Kent represents the fourth generation of his family to farm in Champaign County. Not only does he farm approximately 1,800 acres, he is also a leader in the local campaign to get farmers online, connected with the world and to information that can help them conduct business and communicate with landowners. Kent's eventual goal is to create a secure link on his extensive Web site that allows landowners to dial in and find out information regarding their fields. There are very few members of a community that serve their fellow citizens with the ambition and sacrifice that Kent has displayed over the years. Kent a current co-chairman of the CCNet Ag Task Force, ditch commissioner, and active member of the Homer United Methodist Church has also served as past president of the Champaign County Farm Bureau, Illini FS director, member of the Champaign County Zoning Board of Appeals, and member of the Homer School Board. I am proud and honored to have such a dedicated and influential person in the 15th District.

RECOGNITION OF MAGGIE WALKER

HON. ERIC CANTOR

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 26, 2001

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to one of our nation's most distin-

guished women. Maggie Walker, a native of Richmond, Virginia, will be recognized for her vast accomplishments as the country's first African American female bank president on April 26, when she will be inducted into the Junior Achievement National Business Hall of Fame.

Maggie Walker was born in 1867 and grew up in a rented house in downtown Richmond. Her stepfather died when she was a young girl, leaving her mother to raise two children, and Ms. Walker helped support the family by taking in laundry. In describing her childhood, Walker once said: "I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth, but instead, with a clothes basket almost upon my head."

At the age of 14, Ms. Walker joined the Independent Order of St. Luke, a fraternal insurance society created for African Americans to help the sick, bury the dead, and promote humanitarian causes during the post-Civil War period. She quickly moved up through the Order's ranks, and by 1899 she held a national leadership position in the organization. Ms. Walker greatly contributed to the success of the St. Luke Penny Savings Bank and by 1920, the bank had financed 645 African American homes.

Ms. Walker eventually became the President of the St. Luke's Penny Savings Bank, a post she held for almost 30 years until poor health led to her retirement in 1932. Ms. Walker's bank later merged with two others to become the Consolidated Bank and Trust Company. This bank still operates in Richmond and is the oldest continually operating African American bank in the country. The bank carries on some of Walker's goals by teaching children the value of money and providing loans to African Americans for home ownership.

Throughout her life, Walker worked closely with other groups and organizations to benefit women and her race. She was a member of the Virginia State Federation of Colored Women's Club and the Executive Committee of the National Association of Colored Women's Clubs. She helped organize the Richmond Chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and participated on its National Board of Directors. She was also affiliated with Virginia Union University, the National Negro Business League, the Richmond Community Hospital, and the Commission on Interracial Cooperation.

This year Maggie Walker will be inducted into the National Business Hall of Fame. The Junior Achievement National Business Hall of Fame was established in 1975 to recognize those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to free enterprise and society. The criteria for selection includes a demonstration of business excellence, courageous thinking and acting, inspired leadership and community mindedness. Since its inception, the Hall of Fame has welcomed 195 laureates. Their achievements are honored in a permanent exhibit in the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry.

Mr. Speaker, Maggie Walker was able to achieve unparalleled success in a society that was governed by prejudice, in a business dominated by men, and in a poor community where poverty was accepted. Her efforts improved the lives of countless Americans, helped revitalize an impoverished community,